

**Green-winged and Flock Pigeons in the Kimberley Division.**  
—Recently Father S. Sanz of the Benedictine Mission, Kalumburu, sent me a skin of the Green-winged Pigeon (*Chalcophaps indica*) which was shot 14 miles SSW of the Mission in November 1966. The bird was flying from tree to tree on the west side of the creek running into Tilwillie Pool on the King Edward River. Father Sanz, a keen observer of birds and resident at Kalumburu since 1939, had not previously seen the species.

As expected, this specimen (A 9737) belongs to the Northern Territory race, *longirostris*. The tail is blackish and, compared with *chrysochlora* of Eastern Australia, the purple wash over the neck, mantle and breast is well developed. Its wing measures 185 mm.

So far as I know, this is the first record of *Chalcophaps* in Western Australia. In view of the occurrence of *Pitta iris*, *Ptilinopus regina ewingi* and other jungle-dwellers on the north-west coast of the Kimberley, the presence of *Chalcophaps* in the Napier Broome Bay region is not really surprising.

Because of its mutilation by three bullets, Father Sanz was diffident about forwarding the *Chalcophaps* and only posted it as an afterthought when sending me a skin (now A 9736) of the Flock Pigeon (*Histriophaps histrionica*). The latter was a female (with minute eggs) that killed itself against the Mission garden fence on May 31, 1968. Though this was the first example Father Sanz had seen at Kalumburu, there had been local reports every year between April and September of odd birds and small flocks of up to ten. Subsequently (July 1968) Father Sanz saw a male in flight.

On the arid south-eastern plains of the Kimberley Division the Flock Pigeon may be seen in much larger numbers. For example, on 6 June, 1966, Mr. G. W. Kendrick observed a flock between the Duncan Highway and a dam 25 miles east of Flora Valley, which he estimated to comprise between 700 and 1,000 birds. His companion, Mr. A. M. Douglas, made an inspection of the dam, where hundreds of pigeons were coming in to drink. On the far side of the dam there was another flock of about the size reported by Mr Kendrick. Still further to the west were some dark patches on the ground, which at first Mr Douglas ignored. On approaching them the patches were found to consist of many thousands of Flock Pigeons. The birds were evidently thirsty, for soon after flushing they settled down a short distance to the west.

—G. M. STORR, Western Australian Museum.

**Gull-billed and Marsh Terns nesting at Lake Nabberu.**—D. L. Serventy and H. M. Whittell in their *Birds of Western Australia* (1967, 4th ed.) state that there are few nesting records of the Gull-billed Tern (*Sterna nilotica*) and Marsh Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*) in Western Australia. It is noteworthy, therefore, that P. J. Fuller, G. Lodge and I found a nesting colony of about 300 Gull-billed Terns and about 20 Marsh Terns at Lake Nabberu on April 15, 1965.

The Gull-billed Terns were nesting on a bare islet of about 35 yards in diameter. Their nests were mostly made of samphire though some nests consisted merely of a scrape in the ground. There were 77 nests with 3 eggs, 52 nests with 2 eggs, 11 nests with one egg, and several empty nests. The usual "Fah-wuk" call was not heard but instead a quick repeated "yow" (as in owl) or "ah" like the calls of the Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaetheta*) and White-headed Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) but not so sharp and high pitched.